

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02

INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 DHA-02 SAI-01 OFA-01 EB-07 COME-00 AID-05

TRSE-00 OES-03 INT-05 FEA-01 AF-06 AGR-05 SNM-02

DEAE-00 CU-02 AS-01 /107 W
----- 077999

R 280745Z JAN 76

FM AMEMBASSY RANGOON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 901

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

CINCPAC HI

EA BANGKOK UNN

AMEMBASSY BANGKOK UNN

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI UNN

AMEMBASSY KATHMANDU UNN

AMCONSUL MANDALAY UNN

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI UNN

USLO PEKING UNN

AMCONSUL UDORN UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT PFOR BM

SUBJ: JOINT WEEKA #4

1. NE WIN AND SAN YU TRAVELS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRESIDENT NE WIN LEFT RANGOON, (UNANNOUNCED AS USUAL) JANUARY 27,
REPORTEDLY FOR THE SHAN STATE. WHILE THE PURPOSE OF VISIT IS NOT
KNOWN, REPORTED BCP REVERSES IN SHAN STATE MAY BE OCCASION FOR
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PRESIDENTIAL CONGRATULATIONS TO BURMA ARMY UNITS CONCERNED.

GENERAL SAN YU, BSPP SECRETARY-GENERAL, TRAVELLED TO KAREN STATE JANUARY 25-6, AND ADDRESSED STATE, PARTY AND MILITARY LEADERS. HE PROMOTED "FOUR-DENIAL" SCHEME, ATTACKED INSURGENT/BLACK MARKET LINKS, AND NOTED THAT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING AS "SUPERIOR OR BIG RACES" IN BURMA, ADDING THAT ALL INDIGENOUS GROUPS ARE EQUAL. INTERESTINGLY, MINISTER OF DEFENSE GENERAL TIN OO, WHO ACCOMPANIED GENERAL SAN YU WAS BILLED IN PRESS ACCOUNTS ONLY AS DEFENSE CHIEF OF STAFF, A LESSER TITLE HE ALSO HOLDS, THUS GIVING GENERAL SAN YU CLEAR PRE-EMINENCE.

2. CCP/BCP MEET (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

FBIS REPORTS JANUARY 25 MEETING IN PEKING BETWEEN CCP STANDING COMMITTEE MEMBER CHANG CHUN-CHIAO AND BCP CENTRAL COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN THAKIN BA THEIN TIN. ACCORDING TO NCNA, THE TWO LEADERS "HAD A VERY CORDIAL TALK IN A FRATERNAL ATMOSPHERE" AND CHANG CHUN-CHIAO HOSTED DINNER IN HONOR OF THE BCP CHAIRMAN. COMMENT: WE ASSUME CHINESE TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO REAFFIRM PARTY-TO-PARTY RELATIONSHIP IN WAKE OF NE WIN'S STATE VISIT TO THE PRC.

3. GRAVES REGISTRATION TEAM AMBUSHED (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

ACCORDING TO A LOCAL JOURNALIST, A GROUP OF JAPANESE, PART OF A 140 MAN GROUP SCATTERED THROUGHOUT BURMA TO RECOVER THE REMAINS OF JAPANESE SOLDIERS KILLED DURING THE SECOND WORLD WAR, WERE AMBUSHED BY THE KIA (KACHIN INDEPENDENCE ARMY) NORTH OF MYITKYINA. JOURNALIST PROFESSED NOT TO KNOW WHETHER THERE HAD BEEN ANY CASUALTIES. HE COMMENTS, HOWEVER, THAT CURRENT TEAM IS PROBABLY THE LAST SUCH GROUP OF JAPANESE THE GUB WILL LET INTO BURMA.

4. TRIAL OF DAW HTA HTA MYINT (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRESS PROMINENTLY REPORTED JANUARY 23 THAT DAW HTA HTA MYINT HAD BEEN CHARGED WITH NUMEROUS BLACK MARKET OFFENSES. WHILE NEWS-PAPERS DID NOT IDENTIFY HER AS SISTER OF PRESIDENT NE WIN'S WIFE, NI NI MYINT, THEY DID NOTE THAT PURCHASES WERE FROM TRADE CORPORATION "OSTENSIBLY FOR THE PRESIDENT'S HOUSE". IN ADDITION, ONE NEWSPAPER EDITORIAL OSTENSIBLY APPLAUDING ARREST OF MOVIE TICKET SCALPERS, ADDED "BASIC CONCEPT OF EVERYONE BEING EQUAL BEFORE THE LAW REGARDLESS OF HIGH PLACE OR CONNECTION IS BEING EFFECTIVELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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APPLIED." OMINOUSLY, STATE PROSECUTION HAS ARGUED THAT DAW HTA HTA MYINT SHOULD BE TRIED UNDER SOCIALIST ECONOMY LAW WHICH PROVIDES MINIMUM SENTENCE OF 10 YEARS IMPRISONMENT.

5. GUB ARMS FISHERMEN - FISHERMEN (UNCLASSIFIED)

GUB ANNOUNCED IT COMPLETED ON JANUARY 15 FIRST ONE-MONTH TRAINING COURSE FOR 40 MILITIAMEN OF PEARL AND FISHERY CORPORATION TRAWLER

CREWS. GRADUATES ARE TO BE ARMED, AND GUB HIGHLIGHTED EVENT IN PRESS EDITORIAL OF JANUARY 24 CALLING ATTENTION TO "WELL ARMED" UNIDENTIFIED TRAWLERS FISHING BURMA-CLAIMED WATERS. MORE WEAPONS AFLOAT INCREASE CHANCES THAT FUTURE INCIDENTS WITH THAI POACHERS AND SMUGGLERS COULD EXACERBATE BURMESE-THAI RELATIONS.

6. OIL DEVELOPMENTS (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

PRESS ANNOUNCED JANUARY 24 COMPLETION OF 20 MILE OIL PIPELINE FROM MANN FIELD TO IRRAWADDY RIVER AT MALUN. CONSTRUCTION OF LINE, WHICH BEGAN IN OCTOBER, WAS COMPLETED IN RECORD TIME BY BURMESE STANDARDS. PIPELINE SHOULD EASE SOMEWHAT TRANSPORTATION BOTTLE-NECK WHICH PREVENTS MANN FIELD FROM OPERATING AT CAPACITY. GUB IS ALSO APPARENTLY CONSIDERING CONSTRUCTION OF \$9 MILLION, 136 MILE, TEN INCH PIPELINE FROM THE MANN FIELD TO PROME, PARALLELING IRRAWADDY. THIS PIPELINE WOULD GREATLY REDUCE GUB'S RELIANCE ON ANTIQUATED TUG AND BARGE FLEET NOW USED TO TRANSPORT PETROLEUM UP AND DOWN IRRAWADDY.
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7. MAURITIUS TRADE DELEGATION VISITS BURMA (UNCLASSIFIED)

MAURITIUS COMMERCE MINISTER RAJMOHUN SING JOMADAR LED THREE-MAN TRADE DELEGATION TO BURMA JANUARY 21-26. THIS IS ALMOST ANNUAL TRIP BY MAURITIUS OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS RICE PURCHASES WITH GUB. LAST YEAR MAURITIUS PURCHASED ABOUT 60,000 TONS OF RICE FROM BURMA.

8. RICE COLLECTIONS (UNCLASSIFIED)

AS OF JANUARY 21, GUB HAD COLLECTED OVER 40 MILLION BASKETS OF
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PADDY OUT OF TARGETED AMOUNT OF 150 MILLION BASKETS FOR ENTIRE CROP YEAR. LAST YEAR AT THIS TIME COLLECTIONS AMOUNTED TO ONLY ABOUT 20 MILLION BASKETS, AND IF PRESENT COLLECTION RATE CONTINUES, GUB MAY REACH ITS TARGETED GOAL. MAIN REASONS FOR GOOD COLLECTIONS THIS YEAR ARE; (1) BUMPER PADDY CROP WHICH PROVIDES ADDITIONAL SURPLUS FOR SALE TO GOVERNMENT; AND (2) NEW COLLECTION POLICY

IN SHAN STATES AND TENNASSERIM AREA IN WHICH GOVERNMENT IS ATTEMPTING TO COLLECT 100 PERCENT OF CROP RATHER THAN NORMAL ONE-THIRD. THIS NEW POLICY WHICH HAS SWELLED COLLECTION FIGURES PART OF GUB PROGRAM TO DENY FOOD TO INSURGENTS. PEASANTS IN AREA WILL BE ALLOWED TO BUY BACK RICE FROM GOVERNMENT IN SMALL INSTALLMENTS. HOWEVER, IT REMAINS DOUBTFUL THAT GUB CAN EFFICIENTLY STORE AND DISTRIBUTE 150 MILLION BASKETS.

9. NARCOTICS: U KO KO VISITS POPPY PLANTATION AREAS (UNCLASSIFIED)

U KO KO, MINISTER OF HOME AND RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS, ACCOMPANIED BY POLICE DIRECTOR-GENERAL U SHWE THAN, MIS CHIEF, COLONEL AUNG HTAY, AND OTHER SENIOR GUB OFFICIALS TRAVELLED BY HELICOPTER TO SEVERAL AREAS IN THE CHIN HILLS WHERE OPIUM CROP DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS HAVE BEEN RECENTLY CONDUCTED. THE PARTY, DURING THE THREE DAY TOUR, OBSERVED SOME OF THE DESTROYED FIELDS, TALKED WITH AREA OFFICIALS ON FURTHER DESTRUCTION OPERATIONS, ENCOURAGED CROP SUBSTITUTION, AND CONGRATULATED THE BURMA ARMY AND PEOPLE'S POLICE FORCE FOR DESTROYING OVER 300 ACRES OF POPPY. COMMENT: BURMA AIR FORCE SOURCE CONTENTS HELICOPTERS WERE PARTICULARLY USEFUL IN CHIN HILLS BECAUSE OF THE LACK OF ROADS.

10. NARCOTICS: SEIZURES AND ARRESTS (UNCLASSIFIED)

DURING THE PAST WEEK, NINE TRAFFICKERS WERE ARRESTED IN FOUR SEPARATE ACTIONS, ACCORDING TO LOCAL PAPERS. APPROXIMATELY A QUARTER MILLION KYAT WORTH OF ILLICIT DRUGS WERE SEIZED, LARGEST SEIZURE BEING THE CONFISCATION OF OVER 60 VISS OF OPIUM WORTH 200,000 KYAT NEAR KENG TUNG. THE SEIZURE WAS MADE DURING A ROAD CHECK CONDUCTED JUST NORTH OF KENG TUNG.

11. NARCOTICS: KIDNAPPING OF LO HSING-MIN (UNCLASSIFIED)

LOCAL NEWSPAPERS REPORTED ON JANUARY 26 THAT LO HSING-MIN, BROTHER
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OF FORMER OPIUM WARLORD, LO HSING-HAN, WAS KIDNAPPED WHILE TENDING HIS FARM AT SHWENYAUNG, NEAR INLE LAKE. THE ACCOUNT NOTED THAT LO WAS TAKEN OFF BY ABOUT FIVE MEN IN A JEEP. NO MOTIVE WAS STATED FOR THE KIDNAPPING OF LO, WHO TURNED STATE'S WITNESS IN HIS BROTHER'S TRIAL.

12. STOP THOSE SEDUCTIVE HIPSWAYS (UNCLASSIFIED)

INFORMATION MINISTER U LWIN RECENTLY MET MOVIE PERSONNEL TO EMPHASIZE THEIR ROLE IN BUILDING A SOCIALIST SOCIETY. IN SHORT, HE TOLD THE MOVIE PEOPLE TO "AVOID ALIEN CULTURE." MOST NEWS-PAPERS EDITORIALY COMMENTED ON THE MINISTER'S REMARKS WITH THE WORKING PEOPLE'S DAILY CRITICIZING DRESSES IN "SEE-THROUGH AINGYIS AND TETORON LONGYIS HITCHED KNEE-HIGH TO EMPHASIZE SEDUCTIVE HIPSWAY." WPD WENT ON TO SAY "WE CAN NO LONGER TOLERATE FILM-MAKERS CHURNING OUT PROFIT-MOTIVATED VEHICLES WITHOUT MAKING ANY CONCESSION TO THE NATIONAL NEEDS."

13. NEW RESTRICTIONS ON PARTY-GOING (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE)

GUB HAS RENEWED INSTRUCTIONS TO ITS PERSONNEL TO REQUEST PERMISSION TO ATTEND DIPLOMATIC FUNCTIONS AND TO REPORT ON CONVERSATIONS WITH FOREIGNERS. THE INSTRUCTIONS GO FURTHER THAN PREVIOUSLY AS THEY SAY IN EFFECT, "DON'T BOTHER ASKING TO GO TO A FOREIGN-SPONSORED DANCE." SUCH REQUESTS WILL BE TURNED DOWN AUTOMATICALLY.
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